



# Bayou Foliage

Volume 26, Number 7

July 2007

## Look Ahead

### JULY

- 7 Stewardship Saturday  
8:30 a.m.
- 12 Volunteer Board  
meeting
- 14 HAS Bird Survey,  
7 a.m.
- 21 Stewardship Saturday  
8:30 a.m.
- 28 Continuing Education  
9:00–11:30 a.m.

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finished with  
this publication  
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Thanks!

## From the Rocking Chair



Happy Birthday America! My! How things have changed since our Founding Fathers started this country, 231 years ago. We have gone from throwing away perfectly good tea, to chopping down perfectly good trees to make room for “civilization”, to saving really old trees for tiny little owls who can’t survive without them. We grew up, in a sense, when we finally realized our natural resources aren’t limitless. Can we keep it all protected for the next few generations before it all gets blown away in a senseless war?

My husband and I spent 3 weeks recently traveling to several National Parks in the west to enjoy what we could while we can. It is always so awesome no matter how many times we visit them. I think my favorite is still Bryce Canyon in Utah because of the striking colors of the “hoodoos” and other formations. We saw such a

wide variety this time, from the heat and starkness of a high desert at Joshua Tree, to the rich green and cool Sequoias, topped by snow in June on the Rocky Mountains.

Now, to get back to business, since we don’t report to the regular meeting after our summer board meetings, here are some of the decisions made by your representatives.

- When staff members leave who have made a significant contribution to the volunteer organization; we will take donations (starting in September for Candy and Jessalyn) and recommend something on the Nature Center’s “wish list” that would be appropriate.
- Our July board meeting will be held the 12th at Chabukas at 6pm. Non-board members are still welcome to join the meeting with concerns. Please let me know ahead of time,

especially this one, so I can reserve the seats.

- Depending on the logistics, we’re planning to have the Village Creek canoe trip in September this year. Watch for the details coming soon!
- Events Committee has started to meet and will do so each month in preparation for Creepy Crawlers, Fall Festival, and Yuletide. If you are interested in helping with the planning stages, please call or email me. We’ll try to make it one Saturday morning each month, depending on which one the most can attend.

Y’all keep safe this summer; we look forward to seeing everyone again in September.

John Muir: “In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.”

*Polly*

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**Volunteer Spotlight & Staff Spotlight will return next month.**

## Treasurer's Report

<b>Beginning Balance</b>		<b>\$1567.15</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
April Speaker gift	25.00	
May Speaker Gift	25.00	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>	
<b>Income:</b>		
Earth Day Cookies, etc.	\$115.15	
Donation	\$ 12.00	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ \$127.15</b>	
<b>Current Balance</b>		<b>\$1643.50</b>

## Continuing Education



**Dragonflies**  
**July 28**  
**9:00–11:30 am**

Bob Honig will present a lecture on Dragonflies in the auditorium followed by a field trip to observe these wonderful acrobatic insects in their native habitat

### Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteer Board 2007

<b>Chair</b>	Polly Swerdlin	281-814-4606	pfollyred@yahoo.com
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	Bob Paxton	281-990-7968	thepaxtons@sbcglocal.net
<b>Treasurer</b>	Eleanor Stanley	713-455-1502	
<b>Secretary</b>	Laura Bradley	281-992-2604	Brad9@flash.net
<b>Stewardship</b>	Ian Kress	281-333-9066	ian.kress@conocophillips.com
<b>Greeters/Interpreters</b>	Jarita Sepulvado	281-479-8795	vanillarita@gmail.com
<b>Admissions</b>	Dottie Evans	281-532-1273	docentmom@aol.com
<b>Weekend Demos</b>	Jane Bingel	281-554-5069	
<b>Weekend Trail</b>	Martha Hood	281-286-6746	mhood85@yahoo.com
<b>Weekday Farm</b>			
<b>Weekday Outdoor Ed Outreach</b>	Gaye Batiz	281-538-0592	googiebatiz@aol.com
<b>Facilities</b>	J.T. Chapman	281-486-7466	jtchapmaniii@msn.com
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### Staff Roster

Front Desk	Ext 10	Heather Millar	Ext 14
Susan Brown	Ext 21	Dick Phelps	Ext 10
Lew Hornung	Ext 16	George Regmund	Ext 31
Mark Kramer	Ext 15	Sue Sutterby	Ext 11
Christine Mattox	Ext 20	Shauna Trevino	Ext 13
Megan McInnis	Ext 17		

Email addresses are 'firstname'@abnc.org. Example: candy@abnc.org

## ABNC Volunteer Board Minutes

Present: Polly Swerdlin, Bob Paxton, Laura Bradley, Eleanor Stanley, Martha Hood, Dottie Evans, Jane Bingel, Jarita Sepulvado, Sue Sutterly

### Old Business

**Secretary report** – The May minutes were approved.

### Caring Report

Gaye Batiz's mother died. Pat Bates moved away. Ruby is having health problems. Megan McGinnis's grandfather died. Cards will be sent to all.

**Treasurer report** - The May treasury report was approved. We now have \$1643 in the treasury.

J. T. requested from the Center the \$1000 that was raised above what the windmill cost.

**Recognition** – The board voted to make donations to the Nature Center in honor of staff members who leave the Center and have made a significant contribution to the volunteer organization. The money would be collected during the volunteer monthly meeting. The board would have recommendations for the volunteers from the Nature Center's "Wish List." For the September meeting donations will be requested for Candy and Jesslyn.

The summary of the Reconciliation Committee was found and given to Polly. More action will be taken on following the recommendations at the July meeting.

July's meeting will be held at Chabukas at 6pm.

It was suggested that September would be a good time for the canoe trip since in October it might be too cold to go swimming. Ed and Mark will need to decide if this is feasible.

### New Business

#### Events

- Creepy Crawlers is October 26-27.
- Fall Festival is November 10-11
- December 2 is Yuletide.

The Events Committee will start to meet once per month (probably Saturday morning) to plan events. The important one right now is Fall Festival. Work needs to be done in certain areas including parking and its publicity. We may ask the Farmers Market group to attend as a vendor. They are scheduled to have their regular market on the day of Fall Festival. They will be moved inside the fence for that day.

The next days for the Farmers Market are scheduled for 6/23, 7/7 and 7/21.

#### Vice Chair Report

#### Speakers for Meetings

The September speaker will be Woody Woodrow of Texas Parks and Wildlife, topic to be determined. October is tentatively scheduled to be "Alternatives to Pesticides"

#### Continuing Education

On June 16 Julie Massey of the local extension office will present "Something Fishy on the Bayou". This may be canceled due to Horace's funeral and not enough people signed up for it.

Sometime in July there will be a blacksmithing class.

On July 28 Bob Honig will present a dragonfly course.

A Canoe 102 class may be scheduled.

#### Staff Report

The animal lab is being reorganized.

The new volunteer orientation is scheduled for February and September. A way of getting interested volunteers on

board if they want to come in much before these months was discussed. Now, Sue will work with Polly to get potential volunteers assigned to a buddy. A background check will be conducted when they get assigned to someone. Sue will reword the background check application so that it is clearer as to why we are asking for the check.

Outreaches are not currently being scheduled. When we feel comfortable we have an effective way to schedule outreaches they will be resumed. A special meeting will be held with staff and volunteers to discuss handling of the centers resources (animals, peoples, rooms, etc)

#### Area Reports

**Admissions** – Dottie – She will send email reminders to her people scheduled to work report

**Greeters/Interpreters** - Jarita – The list of available people for the summer is really down. Please consider helping out.

**Weekend Demos** -Jane Bingel – She will be out of town in July. Polly will fill in for her.

**Weekend Trails** – Martha – 2 pm trails have been discontinued for the summer because of the heat. There are still a few that will be held because a trail guide is willing to go out in the heat.

**Weekday Outdoor Ed/Farm** – No report.

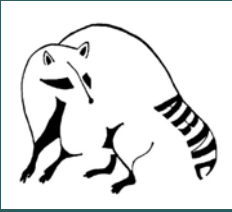
**Outreach** – no report

**Facilities** – J. T. - A petition fence is in place in the bison pen to allow for separating the animals.

**Stewardship**- Ian – no report.

Have a great summer.  
Remember...no meetings in June, July  
and August. See you in September!

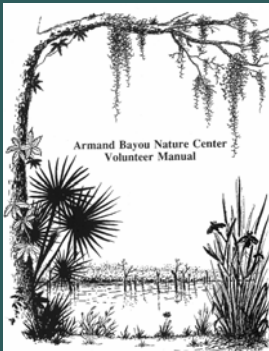




*This job's for you!*

*Each month a description of a volunteer position will be highlighted. The following information is from the Volunteer Manual.*

*From the ABNC Volunteer Manual*



# Volunteer Job Descriptions

## STEWARDSHIP

**PURPOSE:** Provide special assistance to ABNC by participating in preserve/wildlife habitat management and restoration.

**CONTACT:** *Staff* – Stewardship Coordinator *Volunteer* – Stewardship Coordinator

### RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Arrive at on time for specific job.
2. Gather materials and equipment needed.
3. Assist implementation of management and restoration strategies for marsh.
4. Assist implementation of management and restoration strategies for prairie.
5. Assist implementation of management and restoration strategies for forest.
6. Abide by safety guidelines determined by staff.
7. Know location of First Aid Kit and Fire Extinguisher.
8. Promptly report accident or injury to a staff member and fill out accident form.
9. Log hours in volunteer logbook in

a prompt, up-to-date fashion.

10. Notify volunteer coordinator ASAP if you are unable to do your assigned job.

### SUPPORT AND RESOURCES:

1. ABNC staff and volunteers
2. Volunteer training
3. Volunteer manual

### QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Be knowledgeable of tools needed for the job.
2. Be aware of safety procedures for use of tools and equipment.
3. Be able to work out of doors under normal Texas climate conditions.
4. Be knowledgeable of ABNC regulations.

### TRAINING:

1. Attend orientation.
2. Complete appropriate volunteer training.
3. Attend appropriate specific training as offered and needed.
4. Sign emergency medical/commitment form, interest inventory and agreement to submit to criminal background check.

## ARMAND BAYOU PRAIRIE

Historically, the dominant vegetative community of the Upper Texas Coast was **tall grass prairie**. Approximately one half of Armand Bayou Nature Center land is prairie. When the nature center was established this prairie was in a very degraded state. This was due to the impact






of man, which included farming, overgrazing, introduction of non-native plants and development. Two of the major species of plants that had invaded the prairie areas were Baccharis and Chinese tallow tree. The leaves of these plants were shading out the native prairie grasses, which

had all but disappeared. A prairie restoration program was put into effect at that time. Its foundation lies in a principle called "**prescribed burning**."

Burning was, and still is the major tool in our prairie restoration program for two reasons. Fire is

*(Continued on page 5)*

## ABNC Volunteer Duty Roster

	9:30 Trails	2:00 Trails	Greeters	Farm Interpretation	Farm Demos	Natural History
DATE	Martha Hood 281-286-6746	Martha Hood 281-286-6746	Jarita Sepulvado 281-479-8795	Jarita Sepulvado 281-479-8795	Jane Bingel 281-554-5069	Jane Bingel 281-554-5069
7/1		Marie Asscherick	Judy Schaefer	Polly Swerdlin		
7/7	Liz Van Orstrand	Cancelled	OPEN	Joyce Sens	Frank Sens Rope	Mary Barton Birds
7/8		Cancelled	Jessalyn Ballard	Eleanor Stanley	Paula Thorsen Stereoscope	OPEN
7/14	Karen Sutera	Cancelled	Mary Garrett	OPEN	Polly Swerdlin Stereoscope	Jane Bingel Adaptations
7/15		Cancelled	OPEN	Paula Thorsen	Jane Bingel Corn Husk	Eleanor Stanley Reptiles
7/21	Susan Hesley	Cancelled	OPEN	Jane Bingel	Stephania Rogers Butter	Ed Adams Adaptation
7/22		Cancelled	Martha Hood	OPEN	Helen Harger Cheese	Jane Bingel Adaptations
7/28	Jim Crabb	Cancelled	OPEN	OPEN	Ed Adams Rope	Jane Bingel Adaptations
7/29		Cancelled	OPEN	OPEN	Tom Scarsella Wood Working	Hilary Gibbs Adaptations

*If you have to cancel, please do your best to find your own replacement. If you can cover for any open slots, please call the coordinator for that event. When you arrive at ABNC for your duty, please check in at the front desk.*

(Continued from page 4) Armand Bayou Forest

beneficial to prairies and it is very cost effective. Lightning fires were a common occurrence from the time prairie communities evolved on the planet. The grass plant has its growing tissue at or below ground level. It literally pushes the grass blade up as it produces new tissues. This is in contrast to woody plants that produce new tissue at the top of each twig or stem. This makes grass plants nearly immune to damage by fire. In addition, as the grass plant grows, dead grass (called thatch) accumulates. Over a period of time the sun is blocked from reaching the soil and no seedling grass plants can grow. Shortly after a prairie fire new seedlings can be seen everywhere and the entire plant community is rejuvenated.

Bayou Foliage

Prairies evolved on the planet at the same time as hoofed grazers. These animals lived on grasslands and both benefited from the other. In our area bison and pronghorn antelope would represent these grazers. Traveling in great herds they would gather in dense concentrations trampling all the vegetation. When they moved on, the area would rejuvenate with thousands of seedlings just as in the post fire scenario.

Our prairies are an endangered **habitat** throughout the world. They are valuable and worth saving in their own right for the flora and fauna that comprise them. They are also extremely valuable for the treasure they hold in their gene pool. The majority of the food we eat comes from the grass plant. The plant scientists of the future will need the resources in a native prairie to feed the earth's ever-increasing populations.



**Armand Bayou Nature Center  
Volunteers**

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**MARSH MANIA 2007**

